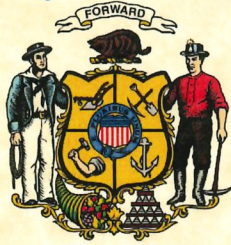


# STATE of WISCONSIN



## OFFICE of the GOVERNOR

# Proclamation

*WHEREAS*; on June 19, 1865, more than two and a half years after the Emancipation Proclamation was issued by President Abraham Lincoln, Major General Gordon Granger arrived in Galveston, Texas, to declare the end of slavery; and

*WHEREAS*; due to the relative lack of Union troops available to enforce the 1863 proclamation in Texas and other formerly Confederate states, slavery had been effectively still legal in these areas prior to this declaration; and

*WHEREAS*; since 1865, June 19 has become known as Juneteenth Day, and is one of the oldest and most popular annual commemorations of the end of slavery in the United States; and

*WHEREAS*; Juneteenth Day is formally recognized and celebrated in almost every U.S. state, as well as the District of Columbia, and legislation to recognize the day in Wisconsin was first introduced in 1987 by Senator Spencer Coggs and Representative Marcia Coggs; and

*WHEREAS*; Wisconsin became the 32<sup>nd</sup> state to formally recognize Juneteenth Day in 2009 when Governor Jim Doyle signed Senator Coggs' Senate Bill 170 into law and, on June 19, 2020, the Juneteenth flag was raised over the Wisconsin State Capitol building for the first time in state history; and

*WHEREAS*; slavery was a legal institution that served as a tool of oppression, exploitation, and economic development in the United States for nearly 250 years, leading to significant racial disparities in wealth, status, and capital that are still widely felt to this day; and

*WHEREAS*; the crimes and struggles of our ancestors cannot be separated from our country's modern history, and the continued recognition and celebration of Juneteenth Day provides all Wisconsinites with the opportunity to reflect on our collective past and how it informs the systems of oppression that persist in our culture and our institutions; and

*WHEREAS*; this Juneteenth Day, as we raise the Juneteenth flag above our State Capitol once again, the state of Wisconsin joins Wisconsinites of all backgrounds in celebrating the end of one of our country's most shameful institutions—while recognizing that there is still much work to be done to address its lasting impact—and in moving forward in solidarity and strength toward a more racially equitable and just society;

*NOW, THEREFORE*, I, Tony Evers, Governor of the State of Wisconsin,  
do hereby proclaim June 19, 2021, as

## JUNETEENTH DAY

throughout the State of Wisconsin and I commend this observance  
to all our state's residents.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have  
hereunto set my hand and caused the Great  
Seal of the State of Wisconsin to be  
affixed. Done at the Capitol in the City of  
Madison this 9<sup>th</sup> day of June 2021.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Tony Evers".  
TONY EVERS  
GOVERNOR



By the Governor:

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Douglas La Follette".  
DOUGLAS LA FOLLETTE  
Secretary of State